

How long does it take to process Social Security Disability claims?

An application for Social Security Disability can take from 6 weeks to several years to handle, depending on the complexity of the case.

[Click here to find detailed information about this process](#)

[Click here to find your local Social Security office](#)

The times below are merely estimates, but represent what people in the 6th District have experienced.

Initial Processing - 8 to 12 weeks

- Some cases are approved in this first step. If your case is denied at this level, you are encouraged to appeal.

Reconsideration - 8 to 12 weeks

- Like the Initial Processing, this is all done through paperwork. If your case is denied here, you are encouraged to appeal.

Hearings and Appeals - 20-24 months

- An Administrative Law Judge will hear your claim at this level. It usually takes 20 months to get a hearing.

Appeals Council - 24 to 36 months

- If your claim is not approved by the Appeals Council, your only option is to file a lawsuit if you want to continue the process.